

What is claimed is:

1. A β -1.3-1.6glucan obtainable from *Aureobasidium* medium.

2. The β -1.3-1.6glucan of Claim 1, obtainable from *Aureobasidium* strain FERM P-18099.

3. A method for producing β -1.3-1.6glucan comprising:

culturing an *Aureobasidium* fungus that produces β -1.3-1.6glucan in a culture medium for a time and under conditions suitable for production of β -1.3-1.6glucan in said culture medium.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein said *Aureobasidium* fungus that produces β -1.3-1.6glucan is strain FERM P-18099.

5. The method of Claim 3, further comprising recovering β -1.3-1.6glucan from the culture medium.

6. A culture medium produced by the method of Claim 3.

7. The culture medium of Claim 6, wherein said medium contains about 3-5 mg/ml of *Aureobasidium* β -1.3-1.6glucan.

8. A composition comprising from about 0.1 to 100 parts by weight of the undiluted culture medium of Claim 6.

9. A composition comprising the β -1.3-1.6glucan of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or carrier.

10. A food product comprising the β -1.3-1.6glucan of Claim 1.

11. The food product of Claim 10, wherein said food product is aseptic.

12. The food product of Claim 10, which is a health food or a nutritional supplement.

13. A cosmetic or personal care product comprising the β -1.3-1.6glucan of Claim 1.

14. An antimicrobial solution or disinfectant comprising the β -1.3-1.6glucan of Claim 1.

15. A composition for binding to, or for removing, an environmental contaminant

comprising the β -1.3-1.6glucan of Claim 1.

16. A method for preventing or treating an inflammatory disease, and infectious disease, or cancer comprising administering an effective dose of the β -1.3-1.6glucan of Claim 1 to a subject in need thereof.

5 17. A method for treating chronic articular rheumatism, collagen disease, newly-risen autoimmune disease, virus or bacterial infection, cancer, invasive or metastatic cancer, oncogenic virus, neuropathy, dementia, Alzheimer's disease, hepatic disease, cirrhosis, viral hepatic disease, cryptogenic intractable disease, life habit disease, diabetes, hypertension, arterial sclerosis, osteoporosis, or hemorrhoid comprising administering an effective dose of
10 the β -1.3-1.6glucan of Claim 1 to a subject in need thereof.

18. A method for sanitizing, or protecting an object from microbial contamination, comprising contacting said object with the β -1.3-1.6glucan of Claim 1.

15 19. A method for preventing nosocomial infections, comprising sanitizing hospital personnel, patients, surfaces, equipment, supplies or instruments with the β -1.3-1.6glucan of Claim 1.

20. A method for removing an environmental contaminant, comprising contacting the contaminant with the β -1.3-1.6glucan of Claim 1.